

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

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NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 H-03 L-03 SS-20 IGA-02 PA-04

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:ASWIFT:AID/ASIA/EA:DCHANDLER:CEA:PAW

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:ECHULEN

S/NM:JRAFFERTY (DRAFT)

EA/RA:HISOM(DRAFT)

DEA:MR. YATES (SUBSTANCE)

AID/ASIA/EA:LPOECHSLI (DRAFT)

AID/AA/LEG:MHARVEY (DRAFT)

AID/ASIA/DP:JCORR (DRAFT)

AID/ASIA/GC:MGKITAY (DRAFT)

A/AID:MWAMPLER (SUBSTANCE)

AID/OPS:CBERNAL (SUBS) H:KFOLGER
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P 152103Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152483

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY - CANU

REFS: A. MANILA 7416

B. STATE 135799

1. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN HILAO CASE (SENATOR INOUE'S OFFICE ASKED JULY 10 FOR LETTER OF EXPLANATION) AND IN LIGHT OF KERKVLIT ALLEGATIONS THAT CANU IS BEING USED AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR POLITICAL ARRESTS, WASHINGTON INTER-AGENCY GROUP WOULD LIKE MISSION TO MAKE
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DETERMINATION ON WHAT IS THE REAL ROLE OF CANU.

2. REFTEL A INDICATES CANU HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN GIVEN "SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES" OF POLITICAL NATURE. THERE IS SOME CONCERN HERE THAT CANU HAS OR MIGHT BE USED AS A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT TO KEEP OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME IN LINE BY IMPLIED THREAT OF "DISCOVERING" NARCOTICS IN THEIR POSSESSION. ALSO, FALSE NARCOTICS ARRESTS COULD BE USED AS COVER FOR WHAT IS IN FACT POLITICAL ARREST.

3. IT WAS THE INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP'S UNDERSTANDING AT TIME OF PROGRAM APPROVAL FOR CANU THAT NARCOTICS CONTROL WAS CANU'S ONLY REPEAT ONLY FUNCTION. IT WAS ON THIS RESTRICTED BASIS THAT WE AGREED TO PROVIDE NARCOTICS AID TO CANU. HOWEVER, SHOULD CANU CONTINUE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN POLICE AND POLITICAL OPERATIONS IT WOULD VIOLATE UNDERSTANDING UNDER WHICH AID WAS TO BE GIVEN AND COULD EASILY BECOME A MAJOR EMBARRASSMENT TO OUR NARCOTICS PROGRAM. AS YOU ARE AWARE, SECTION 112 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS AID INVOLVEMENT IN POLICE TRAINING AND THUS NARCOTICS FUNDS MUST BE USED ONLY FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO NARCOTICS. CANU INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL OPERATIONS SUCH AS HILAO CASE MAY BE WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF PHILIPPINE LAW, BUT PRESENTS EASY TARGET FOR U.S. OPPONENTS OF NARCOTICS PROJECTS.

4. IN ADDITION, AS INDICATED REF B, SECTION 32 OF FAA OF 1973 HIGHLIGHTS CONGRESS' INTENSE CONCERN WITH THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING AID TO COUNTRIES WHICH HOLD "POLITICAL PRISONERS".

5. IF MISSION INVESTIGATION DETERMINES THAT, WHILE CANU IS PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION, IT ALSO HAS A SPECIAL POLITICAL OPERATIONS ROLE, WE PLAN TO WITHDRAW OUR OFFER OF AID TO CANU. CONTINUED AID UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ONLY ENDANGER ENTIRE NARCOTICS PROGRAM TO THE PHILIPPINES.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION COMMENTS ASAP.

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